

Message Text

PAGE 01 PEKING 00164 280842Z

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ACTION SS-30

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1299

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 164

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP SCUL CH

SUBJECT: GOVERNORS' VISIT TO PRC

REF: STATE 17433

1. PRC ATTITUDE REGARDING "PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE" NATURE OF EXCHANGES IF NOT REALLY NEW, BUT DEPARTMENT MAY BE RIGHT IN NOTING INCREASED CAUTION AND SENSITIVITY ON CHINESE SIDE. ONE POSSIBLE EXPLANATION FOR THIS IS CURRENT IDEOLOGICAL CAMPAIGN IN EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL CIRCLES WHICH IS MOVING INTO HIGH GEAR. CHINESE BUREAUCRATS, ONCE BURNED DURING CULTURAL REVOLUTION MAY BE TAKING LONGER AND HARDER LOOKS AT ANY STATEMENT SUCH AS PRESS RELEASE WHICH THEY OFFICIALLY SANCTION. IN ADDITION, CHI CH'AO-CHU'S COMMENTS SUGGEST THAT CHINESE MAY HAVE DIFFICULTIES WITH COMPOSITION AND TIMING OF GROUP'S VISIT. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE NOTE THAT CHENG CHI-HUNG IN JANUARY 9 MEETING WITH ANDERSON APPEARED ANXIOUS TO RECEIVE NAME-LIST OF GOVERNORS DELEGATION. HAVING STUDIED LIST CHINESE MAY HAVE DECIDED FOR THEIR OWN REASONS TO MOVE SLOWLY ON THIS EXCHANGE. AS POSSIBLE FACTOR, WE NOTE THAT NUMBER OF OFFICIAL ESCORTS EQUALS THAT OF GOVERNORS.

2. SIMILAR UNCERTAINTIES MAY ALSO ACCOUNT FOR DIFFICULTIES CSC AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE EXPERIENCING IN ELICITING RESPONSE TO THEIR REQUESTS FOR FIRM ARRANGEMENTS TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSALS AGREED UPON. IN PAST CHINESE HAVE OCCASIONALLY SHOWN
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PREFERENCE FOR WORKING THROUGH OFFICIAL CHANNELS UNTIL DATES AND NATURE OF USG SPONSORED VISITS FIRMLY FIXED. THEY THEN TURN TO PRIVATE GROUPS FOR DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS. PERHAPS WE SHOULD PURSUE THESE CONVERSATIONS AT AN OFFICIAL LEVEL EITHER HERE OR IN

WASHINGTON UNTIL WE HAVE A MORE DEFINITE TIMETABLE OF EXCHANGES
AND/OR A CLEARER PICTURE OF WHAT MAY BE TROUBLING THE CHINESE.
FOR THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, BALL IS IN CHINESE COURT AND SUGGEST
WE GIVE THEM A LITTLE MORE TIME TO MAKE UP THEIR MINDS.
JENKINS

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